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September 5, 2011

Journalism

Since Rap and Hip-Hop had their humble beginnings in the mid-to-late seventies, they have become universal. Styles of Hip-Hop have formed everywhere, from the West and East coasts, to the Midwest, South, and Northwest, all the way to England, France, and Japan. One of the most surprising shifts in Hip-Hop, however, is its move into the suburbs and other areas completely parallel to its urban inception. Rappers such as Asher Roth have proclaimed that as long as a rapper has the skills, it shouldn’t matter what race he is, where he was raised, or what they’re like; all that matters is his abilities.

Charlotte Catholic High School seems to have embraced this sudden surge of Hip-Hop culture, spawning several rappers of its own.

# “I think hip hop is spreading to all sorts of different style of music. There are a lot more artists, which means a lot of good music,” said Fernando Diez, also known by his rapper name “Fed”. The eighteen year old emcee said that “Rapping is a hobby. But I have an open mind, and if I somehow got the chance to pursue it, I would not turn down the opportunity.” Fernando, going under the name “ferdiezm” on Soundcloud, said his biggest accomplishment is his song “I Don’t Need A Pencil”, which received over one-hundred and fifty views in less than twenty-four hours.

Fernando, however, is one of the many hip-hop artists at Charlotte Catholic High School. Lil Sherm (also known as Lonnell Sherman) is another one of those rappers.

Sherman is both one of Charlotte Catholic’s most successful and prominent rappers. “ In five years, I see my music company doing a worldwide tour, and other having music companies try to make us a deal,” Lil Sherm said. Operating under the YouTube username “CeoLilSherm”, Lonnell, who’s been rapping since age eleven, has already created a small music company (along with friends Scoop, Young Brooklyn, and J.E.K) and has been looked at by So So Def and Interscope Records.

Some, however, have decided that Hip-Hop is not as attractive as it once was. “Schaut-Out”, whose real name is Nick Schaut, quit rapping due to the fact he didn’t want to be seen as “some wannabe rapper” by everyone he meets.

Although he says he still likes Hip-Hop, He said “I feel that rapping is just destroying the innocence of little children as well as some adults. If rappers could create more inspirational songs, such as ‘Lose Yourself’, then I think rapping would be better as a whole.”

Last year, Nick Schaut competed against his fellow Charlotte Catholic emcee, Jay DeVore, had a rap battle. “[He] said I was a bad rapper, and I thought it was funny, so I challenged him to a rap battle. I like music, and I’ve always enjoyed music, so it just seemed to fit” said Devore. Jay uses the emcee name “Skittle”, after becoming of tired of being referred to as “The next Eminem.” Although it is widely believed DeVore won the rap battle, both artists emphasize the fact that the battle was friendly. “I don’t feel like there is any animosity” Jay says.

Schaut is not the only one who believes Hip-Hop has its downsides though.

“I feel hip hop is in the process of dying, but that is only for mainstream. However, in the underground, there is still a lot of talented artist[s] that can talk about something other than getting high and getting girls” said Sherman.

Hip-Hop, despite having these negatives, however, continues to spread its roots all throughout the world, including Charlotte Catholic High School. As to the future of the genre in the school, only the upcoming students and emcees know.